



NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

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Dear Linda and JoAnn,

Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) is a Dena'ina Athabascan Tribe whose members have relied on fish, such as salmon and halibut, from the Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet since time immemorial. We are concerned about potential effects of radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster on the health of these fish and the ecosystems which support them, and on human health from their consumption. I barter and exchange seafood with relatives living near Dutch Harbor and for the very first time ever, the crab exchanged for had a slimy tasted to it, so-as it was not edible.

The Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported this Christmas day that Tokyo Electric Power Corp. has revealed that "225 tons of radioactive rainwater likely leaked from cracks in the barriers surrounding storage tanks at the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant", the largest leak to date. "IF" this kills every salmon trying to return, where can salmon of the same species' genetics be found to replace them? A restoration fund from Japan of Billions, maybe Trillions of dollars will be needed, but still could not completely restore the ecosystem. What is the feasibility of setting up such a restoration fund?

The Alaska Dispatch (11/6/13) reported that: "A recent study published in Deep-Sea Research said cesium-137 is expected to reach the West Coast and Northwest Coast this year or next." The study said that after the plume reaches North America, it will split into two branches. "One branch flows northward to feed the Alaska Current,"" Douglas Dasher, a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks said that, although researchers don't believe the levels will pose a threat to human health, there is no sampling data and no plan for detailed monitoring. And, the lack of ongoing research and data collection is a serious concern, given the scale of the accident. "We really need to sample to understand this. We really need to look at what's happening out there in the ecosystem."

NVE requests information about what is being done and planned to monitor this situation. How are U.S. and Alaska waters being watched for radiation, and what would trigger more detailed sampling and testing for radiation here?

We request answers to these questions in keeping with government-to-government consultation policies. If there are more appropriate personnel in your agency to respond, please forward us their e-mail addresses.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "by: Lee Stephan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lee Stephan,
President